Who Is Ervil LeBaron?

Ervil LeBaron is a cult leader so vicious and cruel that he was convicted of murdering his own brother — and had his own daughter strangled, according to cult insiders.

He was once co-leader of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times, an offshoot of the Mormon Church. But in 1970 the Church of the Firstborn kicked him out, and he formed his own sect, the Church of the Lamb of God.

Beginning in 1972 this gun-toting messiah — a giant at nearly six feet six and 225 pounds — routinely ordered his followers to commit murder, according to his ex-lieutenant, Lloyd Sullivan.

"We were to do it (whatever LeBaron ordered) or we would receive . . . hot lead and cold steel or a one-way ticket to hell," Sullivan testified in a cult-related murder case last April.

LeBaron called his murders the "Law of the .38," according to Sullivan, who died of a heart attack one month after testifying. Nobody knows how many people he and his armed clan have slaughtered, but they're suspects in at least 20 murders.

In 1972 LeBaron was arrested for the murder of his brother Joel, who'd been beaten and shot to death at his Mexico home. LeBaron spent a year in jail while awaiting trial, then was convicted of murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison. "But he bribed his way out," said Utah journalist Dale Van Atta, a recognized expert on the cult.

In 1974, a band of LeBaron followers raided the Mexican town of Los Molinos — firebombing 25 homes, wounding 13 people and killing two men. LeBaron was convicted of masterminding the raid, but served only nine months in prison — apparently again buying his freedom.

In 1977, rival cult leader Dr. Rulon Allred was gunned down in his Salt Lake City office by two women. Ten Lambs of God, including LeBaron himself, have been charged in the murder . . . but LeBaron is still on the run.

LeBaron also had his own daughter Rebecca murdered because she was threatening to leave the cult and tell all she knew, said his brother Alma.

"I heard that after Ervil had it done, he wept," Alma told The ENQUIRER.

LeBaron has at least 10 wives — some say 13 — and over 40 children. He and his followers lead strange nomadic lives, moving around Mexico and a half-dozen Southwestern states, leaving cold bodies in their wake.

"LeBaron has a charismatic, powerful personality which he uses to control his followers," said Van Atta, who has written about the cult for many years.

The cult gets its money from a Denver appliance store it owns, from welfare and Social Security fraud, and by extorting money from poor Mexicans, according to Van Atta.

Van Atta estimates LeBaron has around 40 hard-core disciples who will do anything he asks, and another 150 over whom he has less control.

Some of Ervil LeBaron's followers think he's a savior "while others think he's possessed by a demon," said writer Seri Mitchell, who is writing a book on him. And he's so vicious, she adds, that his own mother calls him "Evil."

UNDER ARREST: His hands behind his back, Ervil LeBaron is escorted by police at Chihuahua Airport, Mexico, in 1976.